(c) whether the Government's procurement rate of the small forest products is very less in Bihar compared to rates in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the rates uniform in both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) According to National Forest Policy, Minor Forest Produce provides sustenance to tribal population and to other communities residing in and around the forests. Such produce should be protected, improved and their production enhanced with due regard to generation of employment and income.

(b) The States where Minor Produce have been nationalised are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Orissa and the Minor Forest Produce items nationalized are, Tendu-leaf, Sal seed, Mahua seed, Kusum & Karanj seeds, Harrna and Aonla fruits.

(c) The procurement rates of some Minor Forest Produce items like Tendu leaf are higher in M.P. whereas that of items like Sal seeds are higher in Bihar.

(d) The procurement rates of Minor Forest Produce items are fixed by the State Governments only and Central Government have no jurisdiction over it.

New Plants in Steel and Cement Sectors

5401. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals have been sent to his Ministry about setting up of new plants in the steel and cement sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thirty four applications have since been received in the steel sector for sponge iron plants – 9 in Andhra Pradesh, 1 in Uttar Pradesh, 11 in Madhya Pradesh, 2 in West Bengal, 2 in Bihar, 1 in Karnataka, 2 in Orissa, 5 in Maharashtra and 1 in Tamil Nadu.

Thirty one applications have since been received for cement plants – 3 in Andhra Pradesh, 3 in Himachal Pradesh, 1 in Uttar Pradesh, 13 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Gujarat, 5 in Rajasthan, 2 in Karnataka and 1 in Maharashtra.

(c) Will depend on merit with regard to rail transport angle.

Vohra Committee

5402. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted Vohra Committee for examining the issues relating to hotel facilities and other related matters like pollution in the coastal areas;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee and when it is likely to submit its report; and

(c) whether the Committee has given any report on the proposed Japanese village near the Goa Coasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.B. Vohra has been constituted to examine issues relating to hotel facilities and other related matters in the costal areas.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are:

(i) To examine the actual regulations and standards presently in force in the coastal areas of the country related to the setting up of tourism and hotel facilties.

(ii) To examine the rationale and practicality of these regulations and standards in that context.

(iii) To examine the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) policy issues vis-a-vis the subject of beach resorts.

(iv) To suggest modifications, if necessary, in these regulations/standards in the context of setting up of tourism and hotel facilities.

The Committee is likely to submit its report by 15th April, 1992.

(c) No, Sir.

Free Coaching in Regional Languages

5403. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some institutions are providing free coaching in the regional languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the languages being taught therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap of languages between people of different regions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore (a subordinate office of the Department of Education) is, however, conducting One Year Certificate Course for the general public through Correspondence in Bengali, Tamil and Telugu languages.

[*Translation*]

Criteria for Fixing Price of Levy Sugar

5404. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the factors taken into account while determining the price of levy sugar;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations against the existing criteria for fixing the price of levy sugar,

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Levy sugar prices are determined under the provision of Section 3 (3C)